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The results of this painstaking inquiry show badly as to nearly every point of importance. Church membership in Windsor County increased in the twenty years four per cent., and in Tompkins County two per cent.; but during the same period church attendance fell off nearly thirty-one per cent. in Windsor County and thirty-three per cent. in Tompkins County. The expenditures, expressed in dollars, of the churches in Windsor County increased twenty-three per cent., and in Tompkins County seven per cent.; but measured in purchasing power, or in ability to produce results, the expenditures of the churches in the two counties showed a decrease of two and seven per cent., respectively. Moreover, in these two counties the salaries of ministers, which have increased somewhat in nominal amount, nevertheless when reckoned by purchasing showed a decline of seven per cent. in one county and of sixteen per cent. in the other. The information collected as to the educational equipment of country ministers is likewise far from reassuring. It appears that in the two counties only twelve ministers had completed the regular college and seminary course of seven years. "Thirty-four had received either college or seminary training or both together of from three to six years. Ten had taken the course in reading and study prescribed by Methodist Episcopal Conferences; while forty-seven (or more than half) had received no training which could be regarded as adequate for a minister of the present day." These and a mass of similar facts prove beyond reasonable doubt that the country church is fast losing effectiveness.

What is the remedy for this deplorable state of affairs? The authors point out that no one solution of the problem is possible. The condition of the country church stands in vital relation to the condition of country life in general. But if the church cannot thrive where conditions are bad or backward, it is equally true that in the coming reconstruction of country life the church must play the most important part. Improvement and decentralization of schools is strongly advised. Disuse of antiquated methods on the part of the churches and the substitution of a programme of social service, is a clearly indicated necessity. A more effective ministry is urgently needed; and here truly is an opportunity for labor of a genuinely consecrated sort. Finally the evils of "over-churching" must be overcome through friendly co-operation along practical lines.

The country church is one of the most essential agencies of civilization; it is plain that its power for good has weakened alarmingly; remedies none too easily applicable, but in part proved effective, are available—such is the message of this clear, trustworthy, and significant book.

EUROPEAN CITIES AT WORK. By FREDERIC C. HOWE, PH.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.

Without delving very deeply for causes, or analyzing methods in great detail, Dr. Howe gives us rapid and interesting sketches of the municipal activities of many German and some British cities, and of the results achieved by them. This makes fascinating reading. Pleasanter than romance is the series of pictures which the book calls up before our minds—pictures of well-planned cities, of beautiful streets, magnifi-

cent railway stations, suburbs laid out with a view not only to convenience, but to comfort and coziness. More rewarding than most traveler's impressions are the thoroughly informed comments of the author upon municipal causes and effects.

The implied, and sometimes expressed, contrast of American with European cities gives zest to the book. Certainly in America "the city has grown faster than our city sense," and we have not yet learned "to think in big-community terms." As we read of the surprisingly large number of things which the German city successfully does—not only of municipal lighting and street-railway systems that actually pay a profit and of public works undertaken in a big-visioned way, but also of forms of taxation which place the principal burden upon the rich, and of compensation and insurance laws that protect the working-man—when we read of all this we inevitably begin to feel that we are sadly behind the times. To be told, in addition to all the rest, that in Germany the theater is subsidized, with advantage to general culture; that the cities provide generously for amusement in connection with public or semi-public places; that nearly all the larger towns maintain symphony orchestras with official directors—such facts as these serve to emphasize a contrast that is otherwise almost too obvious for comfort.

The contrast gives zest to the exposition, but it also excites curiosity. How is it that the Germans succeed so well? What is the cause of our own relative backwardness? How may we best profit by foreign examples? Precise answers to such questions evidently lie a little beyond the aim of the present book. Such answers as Dr. Howe gives are rather general, and not altogether encouraging.

The advantage of the German city, it appears, lies very largely in its freedom under the State to do anything it is not expressly forbidden to do. The American city, on the other hand, is under bondage to the State legislature. "Privileged interests, political bosses, and suspicious farmers have been engaged for a generation in welding chains about our cities until they have become our most helpless and inelastic political agencies." Home rule and the creation of civic pride are the remedies for the existing municipal inefficiency. So far, so good; but it also appears that the German city owes a large part of its efficiency to a bureaucratic form of government which we can hardly think of as tolerable in this country. In effect the government is in the hands of the wealthier classes. The business men who rule the city, we are told, have risen above the interests of class. Not only do they govern in behalf of the people, but they have actually shifted the burden of taxation from the poor to their own shoulders. They have taxed their own incomes. The income tax is the central feature of the system, and provides from one-fourth to one-half of the total tax receipts.

Of especial interest is the successful application by the Germans of the principle of taxing land values. Such taxation has proved effectual in discouraging any one from acquiring land except for use; it has facilitated municipal improvement; and it derives revenue from the value which the community as a whole creates.

At thought of an American city governed by a plutocracy in the interests of the whole people we cannot, perhaps, prevent the "cynic devil in our blood" from chuckling a bit. Comparison of foreign city govern-

ments with our own makes our municipal problems seem all the more formidable. It is no part of Dr. Howe's plan, however, to advocate definite changes. His book supplies facts formative of opinion, and will help to create that "city sense," the lack of which he deplores.

THE ORIGIN AND IDEALS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL. By FRANCISCO FERRER, TRANSLATED BY JOSEPH McCABE. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1913.

The publication of this book, of which the original is a manuscript found among Ferrer's papers after his death, was worth while—not on the ground that it contains any educational theories of great value, but precisely because Ferrer in Spain seems to have been fighting in large part for what in this country we have practically attained. Ferrer is thus to our minds justified. As self-portrayed in these pages, he appears as a sincere and upright man, as an atheist with a curious faith in the power of science and positivist philosophy to save mankind, as something of a visionary, and as a gentle extremist. His educational programme, described in a style which somehow manages to be both simple and inflated, makes one think of Rousseau or Pestalozzi rather than of any modern educator. On such points of his theory as the necessity of excluding from the arithmetic all examples having a capitalistic flavor, no comment is needed; nor can we agree that total emancipation of thought in regard to great social questions should be the ever-present aim in the teaching of children. The specimens of essays written by his pupils which Ferrer included in his account of his work, would hardly be regarded by American teachers as satisfactory evidences of progress. Nevertheless, Ferrer had the courage of his convictions, and he died for them. He really took a step in the direction of modern education and of popular education. All honor to him for what he did and for what he undeservedly suffered! His importance in modern history does not, perhaps, make a knowledge of his career incumbent upon us, but before formulating any sort of opinion about him we should read his *apologia pro vita sua*.

IN THE VANGUARD. By KATRINA TRASK. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

Those who believe fervently in universal peace will find a pleasant sentimental appeal in Katrina Trask's little play, *The Vanguard*. Mrs. Trask has a gift for expressing the sentiment of the wholesome—for making kindness and sweet reasonableness as attractive in their way as the glamour of romantic love. The characters in *The Vanguard* are of the sort which attain a certain convincingness, because they appeal to our good nature and to our affections. But they are none too substantial, and we find it difficult to take them very seriously. The mildly poetic effect of those scenes in which girls and boys dance, singing, upon the village green seems hardly consistent with many prosaic details and with the intended horror of battle scenes. But the plot is simple, which is a virtue. We find it hard to believe that a young soldier who had served